Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 IGA-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SSM-01 OES-02 IO-06 PM-03 /057 R

DRAFTED BY: NE/CD:SATAUBENBLATT
APPROVED BY: AA/NE:RHNOOTER
AA/NE:ADWHITE (DRAFT)
NE/ME:NSWEET(DRAFT)
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER (DRAFT)
NEA/ARN:TCAROLAN (DRAFT)
NEA/IAI:XVUNOVIC (DRAFT)

-----161712Z 060224 /65

P R 122314Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

SECRETSTATE 007246

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, US, IS

SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM - NEXT STEPS

REF: (A) AMMAN 00173, (B) 76 STATE 309283,

(C) STATE 004323, (D) 76 AMMAN 7583, (E) 76 STATE 276051

SUMMARY: ON BASIS REF A AND GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN'S CONCURRENCE TO PROVIDE HARZA INTERIM REPORT TO ISRAELIS, STATE/AID PREPARED SEND TECHNICAL TEAM TO ISRAEL FOR DISCUSSIONS DESCRIBED BELOW.

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1. WE PLEASED WITH KING'S FAVORABLE REACTION TO INFORMAL GOOD OFFICES ROLE BY U.S. AND IN HIS AGREEING TO MAKE AVAILABLE HARZA INTERIM REPORT TO ISRAELIS. ON THAT BASIS AND AS PROPOSED REF B, STATE/AID PREPARED TO SEND TECHNICAL TEAM TO ISRAEL TO:

- A. PROVIDE HARZA REPORT WITH EXPLANATION OF CHANGES RESULTING FROM NOVEMBER 29-30 MEETING WITH GOJ IN WASHINGTON;
- B. ASCERTAIN GOI REACTION TO HARZA REPORT SO WE CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE GOI POSTURE;
- C. REQUEST GOI PROVIDE TECHNICAL DATA RELATING TO MAQARIN DAM AND DOWNSTREAM WATER CONVEYANCES WHICH GOJ/HARZA COULD USE IN PREPARATION FINAL MAQARIN DAM FEASIBILITY STUDY;
- D. POSE QUESTIONS CONTAINED REF E, EXCLUDING QUESTION 3.J, AND SEEK GOI RESPONSES AS BACKGROUND FOR MAQARIN DAM/YARMOUK RIVER WATER RIGHTS ISSUES.
- 2. TECHNICAL TEAM WILL CONSIST OF: SELIG A. TAUBENBLATT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT, BUREAU FOR NEAR EAST, AID, TEAM LEADER (TAUBENBLATT ALSO CHAIRMAN, STATE/AID STEERING COMMITTEE ON MAQARIN WATER RIGHTS); WILLIAM ROMIG, AID WATER RESOURCE ENGINEERING CONSULTANT; AND RICHARD BAXTER, PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, AND AID CONSULTANT. REQUEST EMBASSY/TEL AVIV DESIGNATE MEMBER EMBASSY STAFF TO JOIN TECHNICAL TEAM FOR PARTICIPATION IN MEETING.
- 3. IN ORDER MAKE BEST USE TIME AVAILABLE AND CONSIDERING PROFESSOR BAXTER CAN ONLY PARTICIPATE FOR ABOUT 3-4 DAY PERIOD, PROPOSE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE/SEQUENCE FOR MEETINGS SECRET

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WITH GOI. TAUBENBLATT AND ROMIG WILL ARRIVE TEL AVIV JANUARY 25 WITH APPROPRIATE BRIEFING OF AND BY EMBASSY STAFF MORNING JANUARY 26. MEETING COULD BE SET UP WITH GOI EITHER AFTERNOON JANUARY 26 OR JANUARY 27. DURING FIRST MEETING WITH GOI, TAUBENBLATT/ROMIG WILL MAKE HARZA REPORT AVAILABLE TO GOI AND EXPLAIN CHANGES IN HARZA REPORT RESULTING FROM NOVEMBER 29-30 MEETING. WOULD ALSO ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS POSED BY ISRAELIS SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO HARZA REPORT. THEREAFTER WE WILL GIVE GOI OFFICIALS A FEW DAYS TO REVIEW REPORT AND FOCUS ON TYPES OF GOI TECHNICAL DATA THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GOJ/HARZA IN PREPARATION FINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ON QUESTIONS POSED BY PROFESSOR BAXTER (TRANSMITTED REF E). BAXTER WILL ARRIVE ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 29 TO JOIN TECHNICAL TEAM. THEREAFTER PROPOSE SECOND MEETING BE SET UP WITH GOI ON JANUARY 30 TO ASCERTAIN GOI REACTION TO HARZA REPORT, OBTAIN ANY TECHNICAL DATA WHICH GOI PREPARED MAKE AVAILABLE TO GOJ/HARZA, AND DISCUSS WITH GOI REF E QUESTIONS. IF NECESSARY, FOLLOW-UP MEETING WOULD TAKE

PLACE ON JANUARY 31. BAXTER WOULD PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS ON JANUARY 30 AND 31 AND DEPART FEBRUARY 1 TO RETURN U.S.

4. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH GOI, TAUBENBLATT AND ROMIG WILL VISIT AMMAN TO BRIEF AMBASSADOR ON MEETINGS WITH ISRAELIS AND, DEPENDING ON INFORMATION OBTAINED IN ISRAEL, AND AT AMBASSADOR'S DISCRETION, WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO GOJ. TAUBENBLATT VISIT TO

AMMAN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2-7. HE ALSO PLANS DISCUSS AID FY 1977 AND FY 1978 PROGRAM MATTERS WITH USAID.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM GOI THAT U.S. PREPARED TO PLAY INFORMAL GOOD OFFICES ROLE WITH RESPECT TO MAKING AVAILABLE HARZA REPORT AND FACILITATING FLOW OF INFORMATION TO ISRAEL AND JORDAN ON MAQARIN DAM/YARMOUK SECRET

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RIVER PROJECT INCLUDING RELATED WATER RIGHTS ISSUES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRESS NEED TO TREAT HARZA INTERIM REPORT AS CONFIDENTIAL, RESTRICTING ITS DISTRIBUTION ONLY TO THOSE WHO NEED TO BE INVOLVED, IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES IN THIS MATTER. YOU COULD ALSO INFORM GOI OF TECHNICAL TEAM COMPOSITION AND CONFIRM TIMETABLE FOR MEETING PER PARA 3 ABOVE. PLEASE ADVISE PRIORITY.

KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, NEGOTIATIONS, DAMS, MAQARIN DAM, VISITS, CONSULTANTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE007246
Document Source: Concept Concept Unique Concept Con

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: NE/CD:SATAUBENBLATT

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770016-0504

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770157/aaaabyev.tel

Line Count: 148 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 0a4a70da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AID

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 AMMAN 173, 76 STATE 309283, 77 STATE 4323, 76 AMMAN 7583, 76 STATE 276051

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3611952 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MAQARIN DAM - NEXT STEPS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, US, IS, (TAUBENBLATT, SELIG A), (ROMIG, WILLIAM), (BAXTER, RICHARD) To: AMMAN TEL AVIV

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a4a70da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009